

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03195

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING AUGUST 15:
MILITARY CONCERNS

REF: PRETORIA 4742

1. CONTACT GROUP MET AUGUST 15 TO DISCUSS MILITARY
SITUATION IN NAMIBIA AND POSSIBLE UN AND WESTERN FIVE
RESPONSES TO IT. GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED US DRAFT OF POSSIBLE
MODEL FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NAMIBIA MANDATE.
(SEPTTEL)

2. POLMIN BEGAN MEETING BY OUTLINING HIS RECENT APPROACHES
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TO UN OFFICIALS OVER THE MILITARY SITUATION IN NAMIBIA.
HE SAID THAT DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL URQUHART HAD
AGREED WITH AND HAD FORWARDED TO NAMIBIA THE SUGGESTION
THAT AHTISAARI MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN NAMIBIA
CAUTIONING RESTRAINT ON BEHALF OF ALL PARTIES AND THAT HE
SHOULD MAKE SAME POINT PRIVATELY. AHTISAARI
HAS NOW RESPONDED THAT HE FELT IT WOULD BE MORE

EFFECTIVE IF SYG WALDHEIM HIMSELF MADE THE PUBLIC STATEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ARE NOW DRAFTING PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE SYG TO BE RELEASED AT NOON AUGUST 16. IN ADDITION, POLMIN CONTINUED, ASSISTANT SEOGEN FARAH, IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE AUGUST 17, WILL CONSULT WITH PERMREPS OF FRONTLINE STATES IN NEW YORK SUGGESTING THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS COUNSEL RESTRAINT WITH SWAPO. SENIOR SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY CALLED IN NEW YORK REPS OF BOTH SWAPO AND THE SAG, AGAIN TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT. IN ADDITION, POLMIN SAID THAT PORTUGUESE UN MISSION CHARGE HAD TOLD HIM THAT PORTUGAL COULD "PROBABLY" AGREE TO APPROACH ANGOLANS.

3. CONTACT GROUP THEN BRIEFLY SHARED INTELLIGENCE ON MILITARY SITUATION IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA. CANADA EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT SWAPO WOULD ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE ENOUGH CADRES TO ESTABLISH "BASES" IN NAMIBIA. IF SWAPO ATTEMPTED SUCH INFILTRATION NOW THE SOUTH AFRICANS COULD STOP THEM MILITARILY. AN INFILTRATION BY SWAPO AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF A SETTLEMENT PLAN HAD BEGUN WOULD BE CONTRARY TO TERMS OF CEASE-FIRE. UK PRESENTED AN INTELLIGENCE OPINION THAT PERHAPS THE "SWAPO BASES" FEARED BY THE SAG WOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED IN OVAMBO AT ALL BUT JUST NORTH OF THE BORDER.

4. GROUP AGREED WITH PRETORIA FIVE THAT ONE WESTERN HEAD
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OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD CORRESPOND DIRECTLY WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER REGARDING FIVE'S CONCERNS ON MILITARY SITUATION. MESSAGE SHOULD COMMENT ON PROMISING BEGINNING OF AHTISAARI'S VISIT AND EMPHASIZE PARTICULARLY THE IMPORTANCE OF RESTRAINT. GROUP AGREED THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAHAN WAS PERHAPS BEST SUITED FOR THIS TASK AND UK AGREED TO FORWARD SUGGESTION TO LONDON.

5. CONTACT GROUP ALSO AGREED, AD REFERENDUM, THAT FIVE, AS FIVE, SHOULD APPROACH FRONTLINE STATES IN CAPITALS EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE MILITARY SITUATION AND URGING THEM TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES IN COUNSELING RESTRAINT FOR SWAPO. FIVE WOULD ALSO APPROACH SWAPO, AIMING FOR NUJOMA, BUT SETTLING FOR HIS LIEUTENANTS IF NECESSARY. FIVE WOULD PASS MESSAGE COUNSELING RESTRAINT TO SWAPO IN NEW YORK, LUANDA AND LUSAKA.

6. REGARDING APPROACHES TO SWAPO. POLMIN SAID RESPONSE BY SWAPO NEW YORK OFFICE TO RECENT COUNSEL BY UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL (FARAH) HAD BEEN:

A) THERE WAS NOT YET A CEASE-FIRE IN NAMIBIA;

B) THE SAG HAS DONE NOTHING IN THE WAY OF BUILDING
CONFIDENCE SO WHY SHOULD SWAPO?;

C) SWAPO WISHED TO ASSURE SYG OF ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SETTLEMENT PLAN.

7. CONTACT GROUP AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AFTERNOON AUGUST 17.
LEONARD

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